

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

465 W 15th Street, Suite 100, Front Royal, Virginia 22630

May 19, 2022

The Advisory Board met on Google Meets for a virtual meeting on May 19, 2022, with the meeting called to order at 4:02 PM by Mr. Jerome.

Members in Attendance: Lorraine Brandon, Brenda Wells, Stephen Jerome, Robert Cullers

Present for the Department: Jon Martz, Director; Amanda Jenkins, Administrative Secretary; Mikki Ewanish, Administrative Services Manager

County Officials: Walt Mabe

Guests: No community members present

Approval of Minutes

Having no revisions to be made, a motion was made by Mr. Cullers to approve the March 24, 2022 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Advisory Board Comments

Mr. Jerome wanted to thank Mr. Martz and Ms. McClung for the interview on the Royal Examiner regarding the end of the public health emergency. Mr. Cullers thanked the agency for its community involvement with the Jubilee and the Job Fair.

Mr. Martz thanked the Board for agreeing to do a virtual meeting, reporting that four staff members tested positive for COVID and another three were waiting for test results. Mr. Martz reported that the masks policy was reinstated for the agency. All staff members must wear one at all times unless they are isolated in their office.

Unit Reports

Services

Prepared by April White, Shelissa Lewis, and Lucy Riffey, Family Services Supervisors,

reflective of April 2022. Presented by Mikki Ewanish.

Permanency

Foster Care Cases	14 cases with 16 children total
Fostering Futures	2
Adoption Cases	8 children available for adoption (3 have identified families.)
KinGap Cases	1
ICPC Requests	0
Resource Families in Approval Process	3
Resource Families Completed Approval	1
Resource Families in Re-Approval Process	0

Child Welfare

Referrals Received	53 referrals/37 accepted
Family Assessments	44 Open as of 4/30/22
Investigations	12 Open as of 4/30/22
In Home Cases (Prevention)	10
<u>Adult Services</u>	

Guardianship Cases	94
Adult Service Cases	14
Adult Protective Services Reports	23
Adult Protective Services Reports Accepted	16

Notes of Interest

Mr. Martz reported during the week of May 9th, the agency accepted a fifteen year-old into foster care and placed her with a local family. She was later moved due to the family not being able to take care of her. Mr. Martz stated the Department took another fifteen year-old into care, and last Friday there was an infant death. The infant death may have been caused due to an unsafe sleeping arrangement. Mr. Martz stated when he became Director for Warren County DSS, there were about 130 overdue Child Protective Services (CPS) cases. As of April 30th, the Department 0 overdue cases, making the agency in compliance with its timelines.

Eligibility

Submitted by Kristen Strosnider and Desiree Minter, Benefit Programs Supervisors, reflective of April 2022. Presented by Mikki Ewanish.

Program

Applications

SNAP	95
Medicaid (F&C)	79
TANF	22
Child Care	7
Fraud Referrals	0
Auxiliary Grant (AG)	3
Fuel	0
IV-E	0

Notes of Interest

Administration and Support

Prepared and by Renee Pearson, Administrative Office Manager, reflective of April 2022.
Presented by Mikki Ewanish.

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Phone Calls	1,343	4,309
Lobby Visits	952	5,801
EBT Cards Dispersed	83	400

Notes of Interest

Mr. Jerome inquired if people can still come into the lobby as long as they are wearing a mask.
Mr. Martz confirmed that clients can still come in person but will need to wear a mask.

Community Liaison

Prepared by Michelle Smeltzer, Community Liaison, reflective of April 2022. Presented by Mikki Ewanish.

Community Development Block Grant (Housing)

Funds have been exhausted

Ministerial Fund

April spent - \$616
April received - \$1,165

Food Distribution

April - 55 clients served
Co-Hosted Food Giveaway on April 29th - provided food to over 60 families in 45 minutes

Job Developer

New clients/referrals for the month of April: 7

Jobs offered/accepted in April: 1

Total clients to date: 73

Hosted 2nd Annual Job Fair on May 12th

Notes of Interest

Assistant Director's Report

Mr. Martz presented Ms. Lawson's report due to Ms. Lawson being out for a doctor's appointment. On April 23rd, the agency had its Child Abuse Awareness Jubilee. Mr. Martz reported the agency was competing with a lot of different events for that weekend but had a good turnout overall. Mr. Martz stated that the agency was going to try to host its annual Jubilee earlier in April to prevent competing with other local events. Mr. Martz reported that the agency's next Jubilee is the Jack-o-lantern Jubilee in October.

Director's Report

Mr. Martz reported that on May the 12th, the agency hosted a Job Fair. Twenty 28 and 50 potential employees attended the event. One person was reported to leave with a job. Mr. Martz reported that the next job fair will be held just after the public health emergency ends and at a more centralized location in town. Mr. Martz stated the public health emergency has been extended to the end of July. Mr. Mabe asked for contact information for the Family Dollar representative at the Job Fair. Mr. Martz stated he would get that information from Ms. McClung. Mr. Martz further reported that the Department has filled some vacancies. James White will be the new Benefit Programs Specialist Worker, Natalia Gresens will be the new Fraud Worker, and Alissa Look was promoted to the new Child Care Worker. The agency currently has three vacancies: In Home Worker, Benefit Programs Specialist, and Foster Care Worker. Mr. Martz encouraged the Board to read the newspaper article in the Warren County Frederick Report and to watch the video on the Royal Examiner website regarding the end of the public health emergency. Mr. Mabe stated that he was very pleased to see community partners passing information back and forth at the Job Fair.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

No new business to report.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business for discussion, Mr. Jerome motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 PM. The next meeting will be held on July 21, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

X



X



